GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Summary Page

Name of Facility General Electric Company - Rome

NPDES Permit No. GA0024155

This permit is a reissuance of an NPDES permit for General Electric Company - Rome. The facility formerly manufactured medium electrical transformers and discharges an average of 0.85 MGD of stormwater. This facility discharges to an unnamed tributary to Horseleg Creek (Outfalls 001 and 003) and an unnamed tributary to Little Dry Creek (Outfalls 002 and 004) in the Coosa River Basin. The permit expires on June 30, 2021.

The permit was placed on public notice from April 15, 2021 to May 21, 2021.

Please Note The Following Changes to the Proposed NPDES Permit From The Existing Permit

Part I.A.1. – Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements (Outfalls 001 and 004)

- ☐ Added semiannual ammonia, as N; total Kjeldahl nitrogen; organic nitrogen; and nitrate-nitrite monitoring per "*Georgia's Plan for the Adoption of Water Quality Standards for Nutrients*" (2013).
- ☐ Added semiannual total phosphorus and orthophosphate, as P monitoring per the *Strategy for Addressing Phosphorus in NPDES Permitting*.

Part I.A.2. – Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements (Outfall 002)

- ☐ Added semiannual ammonia, as N; total Kjeldahl nitrogen; organic nitrogen; and nitrate-nitrite monitoring per "*Georgia's Plan for the Adoption of Water Quality Standards for Nutrients*" (2013).
- ☐ Added semiannual total phosphorus and orthophosphate, as P monitoring per the *Strategy for Addressing Phosphorus in NPDES Permitting*.

Part I.A.3. – Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements (Outfall 003)

- ☐ Added semiannual ammonia, as N; total Kjeldahl nitrogen; organic nitrogen; and nitrate-nitrite monitoring per "*Georgia's Plan for the Adoption of Water Quality Standards for Nutrients*" (2013).
- ☐ Added semiannual total phosphorus and orthophosphate, as P monitoring per the *Strategy for Addressing Phosphorus in NPDES Permitting*.

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Summary Page

Part III.C – Special Conditions

- ☐ Paragraphs 2, 6, and 7 have been incorporated into Part I.A of the permit.
- ☐ Paragraph 4 has been removed based on best professional judgement, the permittee will follow the sludge monitoring requirements at Part II.A.7 of this permit.
- ☐ Paragraph 5 has been removed as the permit does not include groundwater seepage as a permitted discharge.

Standard Conditions & Boilerplate Modifications

The permit boilerplate includes modified language or added language consistent with other NPDES permits.

Final Permit Determinations and Public Comments

☒ Final issued permit did not change from the draft permit placed on public notice.

☒ Public comments were received during public notice period.

☐ Public hearing was held.

☐ Final permit includes changes from the draft permit placed on public notice. See attached permit revisions and/or permit fact sheet revisions document(s)

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Richard E. Dunn, Director

EPD Director's Office
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1456, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-656-4713

Mr. Cody Platt, Facility Manager
General Electric Company – Rome
1935 Redmond Circle
Rome, Georgia 30165

06/17/2021

RE: Permit Issuance
General Electric Company – Rome
NPDES Permit GA0024155
Floyd County, Coosa River Basin

Dear Mr. Platt:

Pursuant to the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, as amended, the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended, and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, we have issued the attached permit for the above-referenced facility.

Your facility has been assigned to the following EPD office for reporting and compliance. Signed copies of all required reports shall be submitted to the following address:

Environmental Protection Division
Mountain District Office – Cartersville
P.O. Box 3250
16 Center Road (30121)
Cartersville, Georgia 30120

Please be advised that on and after the effective date indicated in the permit, the permittee must comply with all terms, conditions, and limitations of the permit. If you have questions concerning this correspondence, please contact Ian McDowell at 470.604.9483 or *ian.mcdowell@dnr.ga.gov.*

Sincerely,

Richard E. Dunn
Director

RED:IMM
Enclosure(s): Response to Comments, Final Permit, Permit Fact Sheet with Appendices

CC: EPD Compliance Office Mountain District (Cartersville) Office – Cindy Nix (E-mail)

Public Comments and EPD Responses on Draft NPDES Permit
General Electric Company – Rome – Permit No. GA0024155

COMMENT RECEIVED	EPD RESPONSE
Part I.D.1.c. of the Draft Permit requires that "The Permittee shall submit the DMR, OMR, and additional monitoring data no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 15th day of the month following the sampling period." GE objects to the inclusion of this requirement because of the serious implications for the continued future compliance of the Rome Facility. Given the unique circumstances associated with GE's facility and NPDES Permit, the proposed change in the submission due date is neither practical nor reasonable and will very likely result in wholly avoidable alleged violations. From 2002 until 2016, our Permit required DMR submittal within 45 days of the end of the monitoring period. In the current version of the Permit issued in 2016, the DMR submittal due date was changed to the end of the month following the monitoring period, generally allowing 30 days for DMRs to be prepared and submitted. With this further proposed reduction in timeframe between the end of the monitoring period and the DMR submission due date, it is nearly certain that GE will be unable to submit every DMR by the 15th day of the following month. Since all our monitoring is contingent on rainfall occurring and then being captured, treated, and sampled, unlike most NPDES permit holders, the Rome Facility is not able to schedule discharges or sampling events on a pre-determined schedule. Please consider the following scenario which assumes typical turnaround times and reflects the need for the DMR to be submitted by an authorized individual as specified in the applicable regulations. At the Rome Facility, there is only one such person, Cody Platt, as he is only GE employee at the Rome facility: • A stormwater discharge occurs on Friday, April 30, requiring sample collection;	Since the federal E-Reporting Rule became effective on December 21, 2015, Georgia EPD has been implementing on a statewide basis a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) due date of no later than the 15th day of the month following the sampling period for all new and reissued permits. This applies to all point source permitted facilities, including those with daily and/or weekly monitoring frequencies which would encounter the same timespan between sample collection and the reporting deadline as is contemplated within this public comment. In such cases, EPD has not encountered significant compliance concerns regarding the reporting deadline. The analysis of historical laboratory turnaround times during an unprecedented year shows that, on average, the time between sample collection and receipt of the laboratory results is 12 days. This turnaround time would allow for permit compliance with the reporting deadline even if sample collection occurred on the last day of the month. Furthermore, in the unlikely event the discharge occurs on the last day of the month, the laboratory turnaround time can be shortened through expedited analysis and other methods in instances where timing is of particular concern. EPD commends the facility for being conscientious regarding their risk analysis ensuring compliance with the permit, however based on a review of the information provided the concerns raised regarding the reporting deadline for the General Electric Company – Rome facility do not account for a deviation from the standardized reporting deadline applicable to all permitted point source discharges in the State of Georgia. The final permit retains the condition that, "The Permittee shall submit the DMR, OMR, and additional monitoring data no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 15th day of the month following the sampling period."

COMMENT RECEIVED	EPD RESPONSE
• The April 30 composite sample is collected the morning of Saturday, May 1; • The sample is sent via overnight courier to the lab on Monday, May 3, arriving at the lab on Tuesday, May 4; • GE receives the lab results on Friday, May 14 (10 days after receipt by the lab); but • The authorized signatory is out of the office on Friday, May 14, and thus unable to prepare the DMR for submittal through the NetDMR Portal prior to the due date of May 15. The above scenario does not take into account any other real, reasonably anticipated potential delays, such as laboratory equipment problems, that can impact the reporting of the test results to GE, or the possibility that Cody Platt, the sole authorized signatory, is out of the office for a longer period due to the vacation, business travel, or illness. In preparing these comments, GE reviewed laboratory turnaround times for the required PCB analysis for the past nine months. The number of days from sample collection and submission to laboratory sample receipt ranged from 1 to 6 days; the number of days from lab receipt to final laboratory report issuance ranged from 3 to 19 days; and the total time from sample date to laboratory report date ranged from 8 days (the shortest example) to 21 days (the longest example), with an average of 12 days. Therefore, if a sample has to be collected anytime in the last week of the month, GE could violate the reporting deadline established in the draft Permit through no fault of its own. GE does not believe that EPD can or should issue an NPDES permit that creates this kind of unavoidable enforcement risk.	

COMMENT RECEIVED	EPD RESPONSE
As EPD must appreciate, GE's corporate policies will not allow the Rome Facility to accept a Permit with an enforceable requirement that GE realistically may not be able to meet due to circumstances wholly beyond our control. While GE believes that EPD would consider a valid explanation for a late submission, such as the one described in the above example, and not take formal enforcement action, as you know, the provisions of NPDES permits are enforceable by third parties (e.g., a citizen's suit plaintiff). Third parties are not bound to follow EPD's (or EPA's) enforcement discretion decisions. Therefore, the only real option to avoid frivolous, but potentially costly, enforcement actions against GE is for EPD to modify the terms of the Draft Permit by adopting the provisions of the current Permit concerning the submission of DMRs. For these reasons, GE respectfully requests that the EPD re-issue the Permit with the same DMR submission due date (i.e., the last day of the month following the monitoring period) that is in the current Permit.	
The Draft Permit imposes significant new monitoring obligations on GE for nutrients in the form of phosphorus- and nitrogen-related compounds. Reviewing the summary page that EPD provided with the Draft Permit and the other information that EPD has furnished to GE, there is no explanation of the reason for adding these new burdensome and costly nutrient testing requirements into the re-issued Permit other than these are now part of EPD's "boilerplate." For the reasons explained below, GE requests that the proposed nutrient sampling requirements be deleted in their entirety. While GE acknowledges that these compounds have been identified as pollutants of concern on a State level, GE knows of no basis for EPD to impose these requirements on the Rome Facility, which only discharges stormwater and where the only nutrients in our discharges are present in the rain that falls from the sky.	Nutrient pollution is a concern on a national level, illustrated by the US EPA's involvement and development of a *National Strategy for the Development of Regional Nutrient Criteria*, EPA-822-R-98-002 (June 1998) and memorandum for *Working in Partnership with States to Address Phosphorus and Nitrogen Pollution through the Use of a Framework for State Nutrient Reductions* (March 2011). As part of this nutrient framework, EPA has requested each State develop a mutually agreed upon strategy for adopting nutrient water quality standards. In Georgia, this has been accomplished through the development of *Georgia's Plan for the Adoption of Water Quality Standards for Nutrients (2013)* [Plan]. Key to the success of this Plan is the characterization of nutrients in the source waterbodies and from permitted point sources. EPD's *Strategy for Addressing Phosphorus in*

COMMENT RECEIVED	EPD RESPONSE
EPD's 2011 Strategy for Addressing Phosphorus states that even non-point sources of phosphorus can be significant and identifies run-off from agricultural fields, feed lots and urban areas as examples of such sources. The common aspect among these examples, however, is the presence of a source of phosphorus (e.g., livestock or fertilizer) that can add to the quantity of the nutrient found in otherwise uncontaminated rainfall run-off. Moreover, EPD's Phosphorus Strategy envisions working with other Georgia agencies, like the Department of Agriculture, to reduce the presence of these nutrients in the non-point sources of impacts to streams. These critical aspects are missing at the Rome Facility. While this comment focuses upon phosphorus, the same rationale applies to the possible presence of nitrogen in our stormwater effluent, EPD's proposal that GE monitor for it and GE's objection to the proposed requirement. As EPD knows, much of the Rome Facility that generates the stormwater covered by the Permit is impervious (e.g., building roofs or paved surfaces) and another large portion is less pervious (clay covered by gravel). These facts further reduce the possibility that nutrients, such as could result from run-off from the excess fertilizing of grass at the Rome Facility, might be found in our stormwater discharges. When EPD includes a monitoring or discharge requirement in an NPDES permit, there must be legally sufficient basis for imposing the requirement. For example, GE samples its stormwater discharges for the presence of PCBs because PCBs were used at the Rome Facility in the past and PCBs have been identified in previous stormwater discharge sample results. GE believes that many NPDES dischargers in the State are not required to routinely sample their effluents for the presence of PCBs because those dischargers neither used PCBs nor have they routinely found that constituent in prior sampling events. Moreover, no	*NPDES Permitting* [Strategy] is one component of this plan and the Strategy includes the monitoring of effluent phosphorus at all facilities. Additionally, Georgia EPD is required through the Lake Weiss TMDL (2004) to achieve a 30% reduction of total phosphorus at the State Line (equivalent to a 70 ppb annual average concentration). The location of the permitted discharge upstream of Lake Weiss adds additional importance in the characterization of phosphorus from the facility's discharge to ensure compliance with the TMDL. As is discussed extensively in Georgia's Plan, sufficient data is necessary for navigating the complexities involved in the development of water quality models to develop numeric nutrient criteria. Additionally, the Fact Sheet at Section 4.2 of the Draft Permit indicates that, where there is insufficient data, "the permit writer [may] include monitoring requirements to collect additional data related to the presence or absence of a specific pollutant to provide information for further analyses for the development of appropriate numeric or narrative standard". The application for reissuance included a singular analysis for total phosphorus and total nitrogen from outfalls 002 and 003. This data is insufficient for characterizing the discharge and additionally indicates the potential for nitrogen in the discharge with a concentration of 1.2 mg/l of total nitrogen reported for outfalls 001, 002, and 004. Regarding the cost and sampling frequency, EPD did consider the nature of the discharge and is only requiring semiannual monitoring. Comparatively, where EPD has determined there is insufficient nutrient data for continuous discharges, EPD has required monthly sampling for a five (5) year permit term providing 60 data points spanning multiple seasons. EPD did consider the intermittent nature of this discharge and therefore is only requiring 10 data points to characterize the discharge over the five (5) year permit term. Based on EPD's existing data

COMMENT RECEIVED	EPD RESPONSE
portion of the Rome Facility is or ever has been involved in agriculture or the production or use of phosphorus- or nitrogen-related compounds in its raw materials or its former manufacturing processes. The likelihood that nutrients are present (i.e., greater than background in rainfall) quantities in our NPDES discharges is exceedingly small. Therefore, to include a "general" nutrient monitoring requirement in the Rome Facility's NPDES stormwater discharge permit would be equivalent to EPD imposing PCB monitoring requirements on every other NPDES discharger in the Coosa River Basin or the entire State. EPD has not and would not impose such a PCB testing requirement on those permit holders, and the requirements to oblige GE to conduct nutrient testing of the Rome Facility's stormwater discharge is similarly not justified. Finally, the Plan and Strategy documents cited by EPD in Section 4.5 of the reissuance analysis do not relieve EPD from examining what occurs at the Rome Facility, what is likely to be found in our treated stormwater effluents, and how those factors might justify imposing nutrient testing requirements on our discharges. NPDES permits are issued using case-by-case factual analyses, and when the specific facts for the Rome Facility and its stormwater discharges are considered, GE concludes, as EPD must, that there is no lawful basis to include nutrient testing requirements in the re-issued stormwater discharge Permit. For all of these reasons, GE concludes that the proposed, costly nutrient testing requirements included in the Draft Permit are unnecessary and legally insufficient. GE request that the nutrient testing requirements be deleted in their entirety except during the application process for the next renewal of the Permit.	regarding laboratory analytical costs, the total annual cost of analysis for the prescribed nutrient monitoring for all outfalls is ~ $700. EPD has included semiannual nutrient monitoring to aide in the collection of required data for water quality modeling, has determined the collection of data is not cost-prohibitive, and is reflective of facility-specific considerations. The inclusion of nutrient monitoring requirements for permitted point sources is well established and enforceable.

Permit No. GA0024155
Issuance Date: 06/17/2021

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit

In accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Georgia Laws 1964, p. 416, as amended), hereinafter called the State Act; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S. C. 1251 et seq.), hereinafter called the Federal Act; and the Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant to each of these Acts,

General Electric Company
1935 Redmond Circle
Rome, Georgia 30165

is issued a permit to discharge from a facility located at

General Electric Company – Rome
1935 Redmond Circle
Rome, Georgia 30165
Floyd County

to receiving waters

an unnamed tributary to Horseleg Creek (Outfalls 001 and 003) and an unnamed tributary to Little Dry Creek (Outfalls 002 and 004) in the Coosa River Basin.

in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in the permit.

This permit is issued in reliance upon the permit application signed on December 28, 2020, any other applications upon which this permit is based, supporting data entered therein or attached thereto, and any subsequent submittal of supporting data.

This permit shall become effective on July 01, 2021.

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight June 30, 2026.

STATE OF GEORGIA
CONSTITUTION
WISDOM
JUSTICE
MODERATION
1776

Richard E. Dunn, Director
Environmental Protection Division

PART I

A.1. Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements

During the period specified on the first page of this permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge from outfall numbers 001 and 004[(1)(2)(3)] – Emergency Overflow of Stormwater.

Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

Effluent Characteristics (Units)	Discharge Limitations				Monitoring Requirements[(4)]		
	Mass Based (lbs/day)		Concentration Based (mg/L)		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
	Daily Avg.	Daily Max.	Daily Avg.	Daily Max.			
Flow[(5)] (MGD)	Report	Report			Daily	Estimation[(10)]	Final Effluent
Total Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)[(6)(7)]			0.0005	0.0005	Daily	Grab	Final Effluent
Ammonia, as N[(8)]			Report	Report	Semiannual	Grab	Final Effluent
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)[(8)]			Report	Report	Semiannual	Grab	Final Effluent
Organic Nitrogen[(8)]			Report	Report	Semiannual	Calculated[(8)]	Final Effluent
Nitrate-Nitrite[(8)]			Report	Report	Semiannual	Grab	Final Effluent
Total Phosphorus[(9)]			Report	Report	Semiannual	Grab	Final Effluent
Orthophosphate, as P[(9)]			Report	Report	Semiannual	Grab	Final Effluent

The pH shall not be less than 6.0 standard units nor greater than 8.5 standard units and shall be monitored daily by grab sample.

(1) There shall be no discharge of floating solids, oil, scum or visible foam other than trace amounts.

(2) Outfall coordinates are specified below in decimal degrees:

Outfall 001: 34.279783, -85.225558
Outfall 004: 34.281257, -85.218174

(3) Discharges from outfalls 001 and 004 shall consist of emergency overflows only. The permittee is not authorized to discharge stormwater from these outfalls during dry weather conditions except during emergency conditions (e.g. large storms or power interruptions).

(4) All the parameters must be monitored, at a minimum, at the measurement frequency stated above if there is any discharge. If there is no discharge, state such in the discharge monitoring report in accordance with the reporting requirements in Part 1.D of this permit.

(5) The duration of stormwater discharge shall be recorded and reported in accordance with Part I.B and Part I.D of this permit.

(6) The permittee shall use EPA approved test method (Standard Method 608) under 40 CFR 136 for Total PCBs analysis.

(7) See Special Conditions, Part III.C.1 of this permit.

(8) Ammonia, as N, total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), and nitrate-nitrite shall be analyzed from the same effluent sample on the same day. Organic nitrogen shall be calculated as TKN minus NH_3.

(9) Total phosphorus and orthophosphate, as P shall be analyzed from the same effluent sample on the same day.

(10) Flow shall be estimated using best engineering practices or pump capacity/run times. The calculation shall be documented and retained onsite. An alternative method for deterimining flow rate may be used upon approval.

A.2. Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements

During the period specified on the first page of this permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge from outfall number 002 (34.284739, -85.220934)(1) – Stormwater.

Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

Effluent Characteristics (Units)	Discharge Limitations				Monitoring Requirements(2)		
	Mass Based (lbs/day)		Concentration Based (mg/L)		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
	Daily Avg.	Daily Max.	Daily Avg.	Daily Max.			
Flow (MGD)	Report	Report			Daily	Estimation(7)	Final Effluent
Total Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)(3)(4)			0.0005	0.0005	1/Month	Composite	Final Effluent
Ammonia, as N(5)			Report	Report	Semiannual	Composite	Final Effluent
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)(5)			Report	Report	Semiannual	Composite	Final Effluent
Organic Nitrogen(5)			Report	Report	Semiannual	Calculated(5)	Final Effluent
Nitrate-Nitrite(5)			Report	Report	Semiannual	Composite	Final Effluent
Total Phosphorus(6)			Report	Report	Semiannual	Composite	Final Effluent
Orthophosphate, as P(6)			Report	Report	Semiannual	Composite	Final Effluent

The pH shall not be less than 6.0 standard units nor greater than 8.5 standard units and shall be monitored monthly by grab sample.

(1) There shall be no discharge of floating solids, oil, scum or visible foam other than trace amounts.

(2) All the parameters must be monitored, at a minimum, at the measurement frequency stated above if there is any discharge. If there is no discharge, state such in the discharge monitoring report in accordance with the reporting requirements in Part 1.D of this permit.

(3) The permittee shall use EPA approved test method (Standard Method 608) under 40 CFR 136 for Total PCBs analysis.

(4) See Special Conditions, Part III.C.1 of this permit.

(5) Ammonia, as N, total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), and nitrate-nitrite shall be analyzed from the same effluent sample on the same day. Organic nitrogen shall be calculated as TKN minus NH_3.

(6) Total phosphorus and orthophosphate, as P shall be analyzed from the same effluent sample on the same day.

(7) Flow shall be estimated using a parshall flume equipped with a totalizer. The calculation shall be documented and retained onsite. An alternative method for deterimining flow rate may be used upon approval.

A.3. Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements

During the period specified on the first page of this permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge from outfall number 003 (34.281561, -85.225373)[1][2] – Treated Stormwater.

Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

Effluent Characteristics (Units)	Discharge Limitations				Monitoring Requirements[3]		
	Mass Based (lbs/day)		Concentration Based (mg/L)		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
	Daily Avg.	Daily Max.	Daily Avg.	Daily Max.			
Flow (MGD)	Report	Report			Daily	Estimation[8]	Final Effluent
Total Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)[4][5]			0.0005	0.0005	1/Week	Composite	Final Effluent
Ammonia, as N[6]			Report	Report	Semiannual	Composite	Final Effluent
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)[6]			Report	Report	Semiannual	Composite	Final Effluent
Organic Nitrogen[6]			Report	Report	Semiannual	Calculated[6]	Final Effluent
Nitrate-Nitrite[6]			Report	Report	Semiannual	Composite	Final Effluent
Total Phosphorus[7]			Report	Report	Semiannual	Composite	Final Effluent
Orthophosphate, as P[7]			Report	Report	Semiannual	Composite	Final Effluent

The pH shall not be less than 6.0 standard units nor greater than 8.5 standard units and shall be monitored weekly by grab sample.

(1) There shall be no discharge of floating solids, oil, scum or visible foam other than trace amounts.

(2) The permittee may discharge from outfall 003 in accordance with the effluent limitations and monitoring requirements in Part I.A.1 of this permit if there is an emergency such as a power outage.

(3) All the parameters must be monitored, at a minimum, at the measurement frequency stated above if there is any discharge. If there is no discharge, state such in the discharge monitoring report in accordance with the reporting requirements in Part 1.D of this permit.

(4) The permittee shall use EPA approved test method (Standard Method 608) under 40 CFR 136 for Total PCBs analysis.

(5) See Special Conditions, Part III.C.1 of this permit.

(6) Ammonia, as N, total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), and nitrate-nitrite shall be analyzed from the same effluent sample on the same day. Organic nitrogen shall be calculated as TKN minus NH_3.

(7) Total phosphorus and orthophosphate, as P shall be analyzed from the same effluent sample on the same day.

(8) Flow shall be estimated using a parshall flume equipped with a totalizer. The calculation shall be documented and retained onsite. An alternative method for deterimining flow rate may be used upon approval.

B. Monitoring

1. Representative Sampling

Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge. The permittee shall maintain a written sampling plan and schedule onsite.

2. Sampling Period

a. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, quarterly samples shall be taken during the periods January-March, April-June, July-September, and October-December.

b. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, semiannual samples shall be taken during the periods January-June and July-December.

c. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, annual samples shall be taken during the period of January-December.

3. Monitoring Procedures

Analytical methods, sample containers, sample preservation techniques, and sample holding times must be consistent with the techniques and methods listed in 40 CFR Part 136. The analytical method used shall be sufficiently sensitive. EPA-approved methods must be applicable to the concentration ranges of the NPDES permit samples.

4. Detection Limits

All parameters will be analyzed using the appropriate detection limits. If the results for a given sample are such that a parameter is not detected at or above the specified detection limit, a value of "NOT DETECTED" will be reported for that sample and the detection limit will also be reported.

5. Recording of Results

For each measurement or sample taken pursuant to the requirements of this permit, the permittee shall record the following information:

a. The exact place, date, and time of sampling or measurements, and the person(s) performing the sampling or the measurements;

b. The dates and times the analyses were performed, and the person(s) performing the analyses;

c. The analytical techniques or methods used;

d. The results of all required analyses.

6. Additional Monitoring by Permittee

If the permittee monitors any pollutant at the location(s) designated herein more frequently than required by this permit, using approved analytical methods as specified above, the results of such monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the values required in the Discharge Monitoring Report. Such increased monitoring frequency shall also be indicated. EPD may require, by written notification, more frequent monitoring or the monitoring of other pollutants not required in this permit.

7. Records Retention

The permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all records of analyses performed, calibration and maintenance of instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit, for a minimum of three (3) years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application, or longer if requested by EPD.

8. Penalties

The Federal Clean Water Act and the Georgia Water Quality Control Act provide that any person who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this permit, makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine or by imprisonment, or by both. The Federal Clean Water Act and the Georgia Water Quality Control Act also provide procedures for imposing civil penalties which may be levied for violations of the Act, any permit condition or limitation established pursuant to the Act, or negligently or intentionally failing or refusing to comply with any final or emergency order of the Director of EPD

C. Definitions

1. The "daily average" mass means the total discharge by mass during a calendar month divided by the number of days in the month that the production or commercial facility was operating. Where less than daily sampling is required by this permit, the daily average discharge shall be determined by the summation of all the measured daily discharges by weight divided by the number of days sampled during the calendar month when the measurements were made.

2. The "daily maximum" mass means the total discharge by mass during any calendar day.

3. The "daily average" concentration means the arithmetic average of all the daily determinations of concentrations made during a calendar month. Daily determinations of concentration made using a composite sample shall be the concentration of the composite sample.

4. The "daily maximum" concentration means the daily determination of concentration for any calendar day.

5. A “calendar day” is defined as any consecutive 24-hour period.

6. "Bypass" means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.

7. "Severe property damage" means substantial physical damage to property, damage to treatment facilities that causes them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources that can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a bypass. Severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in production.

8. “EPD” as used herein means the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

9. “State Act” as used herein means the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Official Code of Georgia Annotated; Title 12, Chapter 5, Article 2).

10. “Rules” as used herein means the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control.

D. Reporting Requirements

1. The permittee must electronically report the DMR, OMR and additional monitoring data using the web based electronic NetDMR reporting system, unless a waiver is granted by EPD.

a. The permittee must comply with the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Electronic Reporting regulations in 40 CFR §127. The permittee must electronically report the DMR, OMR, and additional monitoring data using the web based electronic NetDMR reporting system online at: https://netdmr.epa.gov/netdmr/public/home.htm

b. Monitoring results obtained during the calendar month shall be summarized for each month and reported on the DMR. The results of each sampling event shall be reported on the OMR and submitted as an attachment to the DMR.

c. The permittee shall submit the DMR, OMR and additional monitoring data no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 15th day of the month following the sampling period.

d. All other reports required herein, unless otherwise stated, shall be submitted to the EPD Office listed on the permit issuance letter signed by the Director of EPD.

2. No later than December 21, 2025, the permittee must electronically report the following compliance monitoring data and reports using the online web based electronic system approved by EPD, unless a waiver is granted by EPD:

a. Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports;
b. Noncompliance Notification;
c. Other noncompliance; and
d. Bypass

3. Other Reports

All other reports required in this permit not listed above in Part I.D.2 or unless otherwise stated, shall be submitted to the EPD Office listed on the permit issuance letter signed by the Director of EPD.

4. Other Noncompliance

All instances of noncompliance not reported under Part I.B. and Part II. A. shall be reported to EPD at the time the monitoring report is submitted.

5. Signatory Requirements

All reports, certifications, data or information submitted in compliance with this permit or requested by EPD must be signed and certified as follows:

a. Any State or NPDES Permit Application form submitted to the EPD shall be signed as follows in accordance with the Federal Regulations, 40 C.F.R. 122.22:

1. For a corporation, by a responsible corporate officer. A responsible corporate officer means:

i a president, secretary, treasurer, or vice president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy- or decision making functions for the corporation, or

ii. the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities employing more than 250 persons or having gross annual sales or expenditures exceeding $25 million (in second-quarter 1980 dollars), if authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.

2. For a partnership or sole proprietorship, by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively; or

3. For a municipality, State, Federal, or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.

b. All other reports or requests for information required by the permit issuing authority shall be signed by a person designated in (a) above or a duly authorized representative of such person, if:

1. The representative so authorized is responsible for the overall operation of the facility from which the discharge originates, e.g., a plant manager, superintendent or person of equivalent responsibility;

2. The authorization is made in writing by the person designated under (a) above; and

3. The written authorization is submitted to the Director.

c. Any changes in written authorization submitted to the permitting authority under (b) above which occur after the issuance of a permit shall be reported to the permitting authority by submitting a copy of a new written authorization which meets the requirements of (b) and (b.1) and (b.2) above.

d. Any person signing any document under (a) or (b) above shall make the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

PART II

A. Management Requirements

1. Notification of Changes

a. The permittee shall provide EPD at least 90 days advance notice of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility that meet the following criteria:

1. The alteration or addition to a permitted facility may meet one of the criteria for determining whether a facility is a new source in 40 CFR 122.29(b);

2. The alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification applies to pollutants which are subject neither to effluent limitations in the permit, nor to notification requirements under 40 CFR 122.42(a)(1); or

3. The alteration or addition results in a significant change in the permittee's sludge use or disposal practices, and such alteration, addition, or change may justify the application of permit conditions that are different from or absent in the existing permit, including notification of additional use or disposal sites not reported during the permit application process or not reported pursuant to an approved land application plan.

b. The permittee shall give at least 90 days advance notice to EPD of any planned changes to the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.

c. Following the notice in paragraph a. or b. of this condition the permit may be modified. The permittee shall not make any changes, or conduct any activities, requiring notification in paragraph a. or b. of this condition without approval from EPD.

d. The permittee shall provide at least 30 days advance notice to EPD of:

1. any planned expansion or increase in production capacity; or

2. any planned installation of new equipment or modification of existing processes that could increase the quantity of pollutants discharged or result in the discharge of pollutants that were not being discharged prior to the planned change

if such change was not identified in the permit application(s) upon which this permit is based and for which notice was not submitted under paragraphs a. or b. of this condition.

e. All existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural dischargers shall notify EPD as soon as it is known or there is reason to believe that any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in the discharge, on a routine or frequent basis, of any toxic pollutant not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed (i) 100 µg/L, (ii) five times the maximum concentration reported for that pollutant in the permit application, or (iii) 200 µg/L for acrolein and acrylonitrile, 500 µg/L for 2,4 dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4-6-dinitrophenol, or 1 mg/L antimony.

f. All existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural dischargers shall notify EPD as soon as it is known or there is reason to believe that any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in any discharge on a nonroutine or infrequent basis, of any toxic pollutant not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed (i) 500 µg/L, (ii) ten times the maximum concentration reported for that pollutant in the permit application, or (iii) 1 mg/L antimony.

g. Upon the effective date of this permit, the permittee shall submit to EPD an annual certification in June of each year certifying whether or not there has been any change in processes or wastewater characteristics as described in the submitted NPDES permit application that required notification in paragraph a., b., or d. of this condition. The permittee shall also certify annually in June whether the facility has received offsite wastes or wastewater and detail any such occurrences.

2. Noncompliance Notification

If, for any reason, the permittee does not comply with, or will be unable to comply with any effluent limitation specified in this permit, the permittee shall provide EPD with an oral report within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances followed by a written report within five (5) days of becoming aware of such condition. The written submission shall contain the following information:

a. A description of the discharge and cause of noncompliance; and

b. The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times; or, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue, and steps being taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncomplying discharge.

3. Facility Operation

The permittee shall at all times maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible all treatment or control facilities or systems installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance includes effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operator staffing and training, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems only when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.

4. Adverse Impact

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment, including such accelerated or additional monitoring as necessary to determine the nature and impact of the noncomplying discharge.

5. Bypassing

a. If the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice to EPD at least 10 days (if possible) before the date of the bypass. The permittee shall submit notice of any unanticipated bypass with an oral report within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances followed by a written report within five (5) days of becoming aware of such condition. The written submission shall contain the following information:

1. A description of the discharge and cause of noncompliance; and

2. The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times; or, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue, and steps being taken to reduce, eliminate and prevent recurrence of the noncomplying discharge.

b. Any diversion or bypass of facilities covered by this permit is prohibited, except (i) where unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage; (ii) there were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime (this condition is not satisfied if the permittee could have installed adequate back-up equipment to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance); and (iii) the permittee submitted a notice as required above. The permittee shall operate the treatment works, including the treatment plant and total sewer system, to minimize discharge of the pollutants listed in Part I of this permit from combined sewer overflows or bypasses. Upon written notification by EPD, the permittee may be required to submit a plan and schedule for reducing bypasses, overflows, and infiltration in the system.

6. Sludge Disposal Requirements

Sludge shall be disposed of in accordance with the regulations and guidelines established by EPD, the Federal Clean Water Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Prior to disposal of sludge by any method other than co-disposal in a permitted sanitary landfill, the permittee shall submit a sludge management plan to the Watershed Protection Branch of EPD for written approval. For land application of nonhazardous sludge, the permittee shall comply with the applicable criteria outlined in the most current version of EPD's "Guidelines for Land Application of Sewage Sludge (Biosolids) at Agronomic Rates" and with the State Rules, Chapter 391-3-6-.17. EPD may require more stringent control of this activity. Prior to land applying nonhazardous sludge, the permittee shall submit a sludge management plan to EPD for review and approval. Upon approval, the plan for land application will become a part of the NPDES permit upon modification of the permit.

7. Sludge Monitoring Requirements

The permittee shall develop and implement procedures to ensure adequate year-round sludge disposal. The permittee shall monitor the volume and concentration of solids removed from the plant. Records shall be maintained which document the quantity of solids removed from the plant. The ultimate disposal of solids shall be reported (in the unit of lbs) as specified in Part I.D of this permit.

8. Power Failures

Upon the reduction, loss, or failure of the primary source of power to said water pollution control facilities, the permittee shall use an alternative source of power if available to reduce or otherwise control production and/or all discharges in order to maintain compliance with the effluent limitations and prohibitions of this permit.

If such alternative power source is not in existence, and no date for its implementation appears in Part I, the permittee shall halt, reduce or otherwise control production and/or all discharges from wastewater control facilities upon the reduction, loss, or failure of the primary source of power to said wastewater control facilities.

9. Operator Certification Requirements

The permittee shall ensure that, when required, a certified operator is in charge of the facility in accordance with Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant operators And Laboratory Analysts Rule 43-51-6.(b)

10. Laboratory Analyst Certification Requirements

The permittee shall ensure that, when required, the person in responsible charge of the laboratory performing the analyses for determining permit compliance is certified in accordance with the Georgia Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended, and the Rules promulgated thereunder.

B. Responsibilities

1. Right of Entry

The permittee shall allow the Director of EPD, the Regional Administrator of EPA, and/or their authorized representatives, agents, or employees, upon the presentation of credentials:

a. To enter upon the permittee's premises where a discharge source is located or in which any records are required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit; and

b. At reasonable times, to have access to and copy any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit; to inspect any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this permit; and to sample any substance or parameters in any location.

2. Transfer of Ownership or Control

A permit may be transferred to another person by a permittee if:

a. The permittee notifies the Director of EPD in writing of the proposed transfer at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed transfer;

b. A written agreement containing a specific date for transfer of permit responsibility and coverage between the current and new permittee (including acknowledgement that the existing permittee is liable for violations up to that date, and that the new permittee is liable for violations from that date on) is submitted to the Director at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed transfer; and

c. The Director, within thirty (30) days, does not notify the current permittee and the new permittee of EPD’s intent to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate the permit and to require that a new application be filed rather than agreeing to the transfer of the permit.

3. Availability of Reports

Except for data deemed to be confidential under O.C.G.A. § 12-5-26 or by the Regional Administrator of the EPA under the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 2, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at an office of EPD. Effluent data, permit applications, permittee's names and addresses, and permits shall not be considered confidential.

4. Permit Modification

This permit may be modified, suspended, revoked or reissued in whole or in part during its term for cause including, but not limited to, the following:

a. Violation of any conditions of this permit;

b. Obtaining this permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts;

c. A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the permitted discharge; or

d. To comply with any applicable effluent limitation issued pursuant to the order of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia issued on June 8, 1976, in Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. et.al. v. Russell E. Train, 8 ERC 2120(D.D.C. 1976), if the effluent limitation so issued:

1. is different in conditions or more stringent than any effluent limitation in the permit; or

2. controls any pollutant not limited in the permit.

5. Toxic Pollutants

The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established pursuant to Section 307(a) of the Federal Clean Water Act for toxic pollutants, which are present in the discharge within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.

6. Civil and Criminal Liability

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance.

7. State Laws

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable State law or regulation under authority preserved by Section 510 of the Federal Clean Water Act.

8. Water Quality Standards

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the modification of any condition of this permit when it is determined that the effluent limitations specified herein fail to achieve the applicable State water quality standards.

9. Property Rights

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of Federal, State or local laws or regulations.

10. Expiration of Permit

The permittee shall not discharge after the expiration date. In order to receive authorization to discharge beyond the expiration date, the permittee shall submit such information, forms, and fees as are required by EPD at least 180 days prior to the expiration date.

11. Contested Hearings

Any person who is aggrieved or adversely affected by an action of the Director of EPD shall petition the Director for a hearing within thirty (30) days of notice of such action.

12. Severability

The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this permit, shall not be affected thereby.

13. Best Management Practices

The permittee will implement best management practices to control the discharge of hazardous and/or toxic materials from ancillary manufacturing activities. Such activities include, but are not limited to, materials storage, in-plant transfer, process and material handling, loading and unloading operations, plant site runoff, and sludge and waste disposal.

14. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense

It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

15. Duty to Provide Information

a. The permittee shall furnish to the EPD Director, within a reasonable time, any information which the Director may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish upon request copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

b. When the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or any report to the Director, it shall promptly submit such facts and information.

16. Duty to Comply

a. The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (O.C.G.A. § 12-5-20 et. seq.) and is grounds for enforcement action; for permit termination; revocation and reissuance, or modification; or for denial of a permit renewal application. Any instances of noncompliance must be reported to EPD as specified in Part I. D and Part II.A. of this permit.

b. Penalties for violations of permit conditions. The Federal Clean Water Act and the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (O.C.G.A. § 12-5-20 et. seq.) provide that any person who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required under this permit, makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance shall, upon conviction be punished by a fine or by imprisonment, or by both. The Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Act) also provides procedures for imposing civil penalties which may be levied for violations of the Act, any permit condition or limitation established pursuant to the Act, or negligently or intentionally failing or refusing to comply with any final or emergency order of the Director**.**

17. Upset Provisions

Provisions of 40 CFR 122.41(n)(1)-(4), regarding "Upset" shall be applicable to any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding brought to enforce this permit.

PART III

A. Previous Permits

1. All previous State wastewater permits issued to this facility, whether for construction or operation, are hereby revoked by the issuance of this permit. This action is taken to assure compliance with the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, as amended, and the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended. Receipt of the permit constitutes notice of such action. The conditions, requirements, terms and provisions of this permit authorizing discharge under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System govern discharges from this facility.

B. Schedule of Compliance

1. The permittee shall achieve compliance with the effluent limitations specified for discharges in accordance with the following schedule: N/A

2. No later than 14 calendar days following a date identified in the above schedule of compliance, the permittee shall submit either a report of progress or, in the case of specific actions being required by identified dates, a written notice of compliance or noncompliance, any remedial actions taken, and the probability of meeting the next scheduled requirement.

C. Special Conditions

1. The permittee shall monitor and report analytical results for total PCBs in accordance with Parts I.A and I.D of this permit. If the sampling analysis results for Total PCBs are detected above the permit effluent limit anytime during the duration of this permit, the permittee shall notify EPD in writing within 15 days of receiving analysis results. EPD may conduct another reasonable potential analysis to determine whether a more stringent effluent limitation may be necessary.

2. In lieu of the sludge disposal requirements specified in Part II.A.6 of this permit, the permittee is authorized to dispose the sludge in an approved chemical waste landfill which is permitted to accept Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) waste.

D. Biomonitoring and Toxicity Reduction Requirements

1. The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established by section 307(a) of the Federal Act and with chapter 391-3-6-.03(5)(e) of the State Rules and may not discharge toxic pollutants in concentrations or combinations that are harmful to humans, animals, or aquatic life.

If toxicity is suspected in the effluent, EPD may require the permittee to perform any of the following actions:

a. Acute biomonitoring tests;

b. Chronic biomonitoring tests;

c. Stream studies;

d. Priority pollutant analyses;

e. Toxicity reduction evaluations (TRE); or

f. Any other appropriate study.

2. EPD will specify the requirements and methodologies for performing any of these tests or studies. Unless other concentrations are specified by EPD, the critical concentration used to determine toxicity in biomonitoring tests will be the effluent instream wastewater concentration (IWC) based on the representative plant flow of the facility and the critical low flow of the receiving stream (7Q10). The endpoints that will be reported are the effluent concentration that is lethal to 50% of the test organisms (LC50) if the test is for acute toxicity, and the no observed effect concentration (NOEC) of effluent if the test is for chronic toxicity.

The permittee must eliminate effluent toxicity and supply EPD with data and evidence to confirm toxicity elimination.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division proposes to issue an NPDES permit to the applicant identified below. The draft permit places conditions on the discharge of pollutants from the wastewater treatment plant to waters of the State.

Technical Contact: Ian McDowell (*ian.mcdowell@dnr.ga.gov)*
470-604-9483

Draft permit:

- ☐ First issuance
- ☐ Reissuance with no or minor modifications from previous permit
- ☒ Reissuance with substantial modifications from previous permit
- ☐ Modification of existing permit
- ☐ Requires EPA review
- ☐ Designated as a major facility

1.0 FACILITY INFORMATION

1.1 NPDES Permit No.: GA0024155

1.2 Name and Address of Owner/Applicant

General Electric Company
1935 Redmond Circle
Rome, Georgia 30165

1.3 Name and Address of Facility

General Electric Company – Rome
1935 Redmond Circle
Rome, Georgia 30165
(Floyd County)

1.4 Location and Description of the discharge (as reported by applicant)

Outfall ID	Latitude	Longitude	Receiving Waterbody
001	34° 16' 47.21" N (34.279783)	85° 13' 32.00" W (-85.225558)	Unnamed Tributary to Horseleg Creek

002	34° 17' 5.06" N (34.284739)	85° 13' 15.36" W (-85.220934)	Unnamed Tributary to Little Dry Creek
003	34° 16' 53.61" N (34.281561)	85° 13' 31.34" W (-85.225373)	Unnamed Tributary to Horseleg Creek
004	34° 16' 52.52" N (34.281257)	85° 13' 5.42" W (-85.218174)	Unnamed Tributary to Little Dry Creek

1.5 Production Capacity – N/A

1.6 SIC Code & Description

9999 – Nonclassifiable Establishments

1.7 Description of Industrial Processes

The General Electric Company Rome facility formerly manufactured medium electrical transformers. Manufacturing operations ceased in 1997. The facility continues to perform remediation work and operates treatment systems for stormwater and groundwater. Only stormwater is discharged under this NPDES permit. Treated groundwater is discharged to the local POTW (City of Rome) under an industrial user permit.

1.8 Description of the Wastewater Treatment Facility

Stormwater collected at Outfall 002 is discharged without treatment. Outfalls 001 and 004 serve as emergency outfalls that only operate under overflow conditions (i.e. large storms or power interruptions) and only receive treatment in the form of grit removal. Under normal operating conditions, stormwater is collected in pits upgradient from Outfalls 001, 003, and 004, and captured in tanks for treatment. Stormwater is then treated using grit removal, coagulation, flocculation, solids collection, multimedia filtration, and carbon adsorption. Treated stormwater is then discharged via Outfall 003. Solids collected in the clarifier are drawn off to a settling tank, then moved to a secondary sludge tank, then run through a filter press. Decant water from the tanks is sent back to the headworks of the process and solids from the filter press are landfilled.

Outfall	Operation Description	Treatment Description
001	Stormwater (Emergency Overflow)	Grit Removal
002	Stormwater	None
003	Stormwater	Grit Removal, Coagulation, Flocculation, Sedimentation, Multimedia Filtration, and Carbon Adsorption
004	Stormwater (Emergency Overflow)	Grit Removal

1.9 Type of Wastewater Discharge

☐ process wastewater ☒ stormwater

☐ domestic wastewater ☐ combined

☐ other

1.10 Characterization of Effluent Discharge as Reported by Applicant

(Form 2F, Section VII, Part A only. Please refer to the application for additional analysis)

1.10.1 Outfall Nos. 001, 002, and 004 – Emergency Overflow of Stormwater (001 & 004) and Stormwater (002)

Effluent Characteristics[1] (as Reported by Applicant)	Maximum Daily Value	Average Daily Value
Flow (MGD)	0.500	0.215
Oil & Grease (mg/L)	<5.0	N/A
Chemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	39.6	N/A
Biochemical Oxygen Demand,5-day (mg/L)	<2.0	N/A
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)	10.5	N/A
Total Nitrogen (mg/L)	1.2	N/A
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	<0.05	N/A

[1] Representative samples for Part A constituents were not available for the emergency overflows of stormwater from outfalls 001 and 004. The sampling results of stormwater from outfall 002 which does not receive treatment is considered to be representative of the effluent characteristics of outfalls 001 and 004

1.10.2 Outfall No. 003 – Treated Stormwater

Effluent Characteristics (as Reported by Applicant)	Maximum Daily Value	Average Daily Value
Flow (MGD)	0.814	0.634
Oil & Grease (mg/L)	<5.0	N/A
Chemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	12.4	N/A
Biochemical Oxygen Demand,5-day (mg/L)	<2.0	N/A
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)	<5.0	N/A
Total Nitrogen (mg/L)	<0.52	N/A
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	<0.050	N/A

2.0 APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

2.1 State Regulations

Chapter 391-3-6 of the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control

2.2 Federal Regulations

Source	Activity	Applicable Regulation
Industrial (Non-POTW)	Non-Process Water Discharges	40 CFR 122 40 CFR 125 40 CFR 127 40 CFR 136

2.3 Industrial Effluent Limit Guideline(s) – N/A

Discharges consist solely of stormwater discharges, with no applicable industrial effluent limitation guidelines.

3.0 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS & RECEIVING WATERBODY INFORMATION

Section 301(b)(1)(C) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires the development of limitations in permits necessary to meet water quality standards. Federal Regulations 40 CFR 122.4(d) require that conditions in NPDES permits ensure compliance with the water quality standards which are composed of use classifications, numeric and or narrative water quality criteria and an antidegradation policy. The use classification system designates the beneficial uses that each waterbody is expected to achieve, such as drinking water, fishing, or recreation. The numeric and narrative water quality criteria are deemed necessary to support the beneficial use classification for each water body. The antidegradation policy represents an approach to maintain and to protect various levels of water quality and uses.

3.1 Receiving Waterbody Classification and Information

Designated Water Use: The designated water use for the unnamed tributaries to Horseleg Creek and Little Dry Creek is fishing.

[391-3-6-.03(6)]

Fishing,

(i) Dissolved Oxygen: A daily average of 6.0 mg/L and no less than 5.0 mg/L at all times for water designated as trout streams by the Wildlife Resources Division. A daily average of 5.0 mg/L and no less than 4.0 mg/L at all times for waters supporting warm water species of fish.

(ii) pH: Within the range of 6.0 - 8.5.

(iii) Bacteria:

1. For the months of May through October, when water contact recreation activities are expected to occur, fecal coliform not to exceed a geometric mean of 200 per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours. Should water quality and sanitary studies show fecal coliform levels from non-human sources exceed 200/100 mL (geometric mean) occasionally, then the allowable geometric mean fecal coliform shall not exceed 300 per 100 mL in lakes and reservoirs and 500 per 100 mL in free flowing freshwater streams. For the months of November through April, fecal coliform not to exceed a geometric mean of 1,000 per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours and not to exceed a maximum of 4,000 per 100 mL for any sample. The State does not encourage swimming in these surface waters since a number of factors which are beyond the control of any State regulatory agency contribute to elevated levels of bacteria.

2. For waters designated as shellfish growing areas by the Georgia DNR Coastal Resources Division, the requirements will be consistent with those established by the State and Federal agencies responsible for the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. The requirements are found in National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, 2007 Revision (or most recent version), Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

(iv) Temperature: Not to exceed 90°F. At no time is the temperature of the receiving waters to be increased more than 5°F above intake temperature except that in estuarine waters the increase will not be more than 1.5°F. In streams designated as primary trout or smallmouth bass waters by the Wildlife Resources Division, there shall be no elevation of natural stream temperatures. In streams designated as secondary trout waters, there shall be no elevation exceeding 2°F natural stream temperatures.

3.2 Ambient Information

Outfall ID	7Q10 (cfs)	1Q10 (cfs)	Hardness (mg/L as $CaCO_3$)	Annual Average Flow (cfs)	Upstream Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)
001	0.0023	0.0017	82	0.124	Data unavailable[1]
002	0.000649	0.000447	82	0.0897	Data unavailable[1]
003	0.0023	0.0017	82	0.124	Data unavailable[1]
004	0.000649	0.000447	82	0.0897	Data unavailable[1]

[1] For the Reasonable Potential Analysis calculations, EPD used 10 mg/l as a conservative value.

3.3 Georgia 305(b)/303(d) List Documents

The unnamed tributaries to Horseleg Creek and Little Dry Creek are unassessed and have a designated use of fishing. Horseleg Creek (Headwaters to Coosa River) and Little Dry Creek (Tributary to the Oostanaula River) are however listed as not supporting the designated use of fishing.

Reach Name/ID	Reach Location/County	River Basin/ Use	Assessment/ Data Provider	Cause/ Source	Size/Unit	Category/ Priority	Notes
Horseleg Creek	Headwaters to Coosa River - Rome	Coosa	Not Supporting	Fish Tissue (PCBs), FC	4	4a	Cause for Fish Tissue (PCBs) is I2. Cause for FC is NP. TMDLs completed Fish Tissue (PCBs) (aka Commercial Fishing Ban) 2005 (revised 2009 & 2014) & FC (2009). There is a commercial fishing ban in place due to historical PCB contamination in the area (Rules and Regulations for Wildlife Resources Division 391-4-3-.04).
GAR031501050211	Floyd	Fishing	3,10	I2, NP	Miles		

Reach Name/ID	Reach Location/County	River Basin/ Use	Assessment/ Data Provider	Cause/ Source	Size/Unit	Category/ Priority	Notes
Little Dry Creek	Tributary to the Oostanaula River - Rome	Coosa	Not Supporting	Fish Tissue (PCBs)	6	4a	TMDL completed Fish Tissue (PCBs) (aka Commercial Fishing Ban) 2005 (revised 2009 & 2014). There is a commercial fishing ban in place due to historical PCB contamination in the area (Rules and Regulations for Wildlife Resources Division 391-4-3-.04).
GAR031501030603	Floyd	Fishing	3	I2	Miles		

3.4 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

A TMDL was developed for PCBs in Fish Tissue in the Coosa River Basin in 2005 (revised 2009 and 2014). The predominate source of PCBs in the Coosa River Basin was identified to be the former General Electric Company – Rome facility. Various investigation and clean-up activities have been completed and are still ongoing, pursuant to a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit [HW-042 (S&CA)-3]. These activities are expected to reduce nonpoint source pollutant loadings of PCB to the Coosa River Basin. Where there is reasonable assurance that reductions in nonpoint source pollutant loading will be achieved, those future reduction may be considered when allocating loads among point and nonpoint sources. EPD, together with EPA determined that reasonable assurance exists that reductions in PCB loadings to the Coosa River Basin (including the Coosa River, Horseleg Creek, and Little Dry Creek) will be achieved through the corrective action and stormwater controls,

including site remediation and best management practices described in General Electric Company's RCRA permit.

A TMDL was developed for fecal coliform in 2009 which covers Horseleg Creek. The General Electric Company – Rome facility is not listed in this TMDL and there is no reasonable potential for the occurrence of fecal coliform in their discharge. Fecal coliform limitations are not required.

3.5 Wasteload Allocation Date

See Appendix A of the Fact Sheet

4.0 PERMIT CONDITIONS AND EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

4.1 Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs) & Technology Based Effluent Limitations (TBELs)

When drafting a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, a permit writer must consider the impact of the proposed pollutants in a discharge on the quality of the receiving water. Water quality goals for a waterbody are defined by state water quality criteria or standards. By analyzing the effect of a pollutant in the discharge on the receiving water, a permit writer could find that technology-based effluent limitations (TBELs) alone will not achieve the applicable water quality standards or protect downstream users. In such cases, the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its implementing regulations require development of water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBELs). WQBELs help meet the CWA objective of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters and the goal of water quality that provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water (fishable/swimmable).

WQBELs are designed to protect water quality by ensuring water quality standards are met in the receiving water and the designated use and downstream uses are protected. On the basis of the requirements of 40 C.F.R §125.3(a), additional or more stringent effluent limitations and conditions, such as WQBELs, are imposed when TBELs are not sufficient to protect water quality.

TBELs aim to prevent pollution by requiring a minimum level of effluent quality that is attainable using demonstrated technologies for reducing discharges of pollutants or pollution into the waters of the State. TBELs are developed independently of the potential impact of a discharge on the receiving water, which is addressed through water quality standards and WQBELs. The NPDES regulations at 40 C.F.R. §125.3(a) require NPDES permit writers to develop technology-based treatment requirements, consistent with CWA section 301(b), that represent the minimum level of control that must be imposed in a permit. The regulation also requires permit writers to include in permits additional or more stringent effluent limitations and conditions, including those necessary to protect water quality.

For pollutants not specifically regulated by Federal Effluent Limit Guidelines (ELGS), the permit writer must identify any needed TBELS and utilize best professional judgment to

establish TBELS or determine other appropriate means to control its discharge if there is a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to a violation of the water quality standards.

4.2 Reasonable Potential Analysis (RPA)

EPA regulations at 40 C.F.R. §122.44(d)(1)(i) state, "Limitations must control all pollutants or pollutant parameters (either conventional, nonconventional, or toxic pollutants) which the Director determines are or may be discharged at a level that will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any [s]tate water quality standard, including [s]tate narrative criteria for water quality." [emphasis added]

EPA regulations at 40 C.F.R. §122.44(d)(1)(ii) require States to develop procedures for determining whether a discharge causes, has the reasonable potential to cause, or contributes to an instream excursion above a narrative or numeric criterion within a state water. If such reasonable potential is determined to exist, the NPDES permit must contain pollutant effluent limits and/or effluent limits for whole effluent toxicity. Georgia has reasonable potential procedures, based upon the specific category of pollutants and/or specific pollutant of concern. Chemical specific and biomonitoring data and other pertinent information in EPD's files will be considered in accordance with the review procedures specified in the GA Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6 in the evaluation of a permit application and in the evaluation of the reasonable potential for a discharge to cause an exceedance in the numeric or narrative criteria.

The term "pollutant" is defined in CWA section 502(6) and 40 C.F.R. §122.2. Pollutants are grouped into three categories under the NPDES program: conventional, toxic, and nonconventional. Conventional pollutants are those defined in CWA section 304(a)(4) and 40 C.F.R.§401.16 (five day-biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5), total suspended solids (TSS), fecal coliform, pH, and oil and grease). Toxic (priority) pollutants are those defined in CWA section 307(a)(1) and include 126 metals and manmade organic compounds. Nonconventional pollutants are those that do not fall under either of the above categories (conventional or toxic pollutants) and include parameters such as, but not limited to, chlorine, ammonia, nitrogen, phosphorus, chemical oxygen demand (COD), and whole effluent toxicity (WET).

EPD evaluates the data provided in the application and supporting documents. If a pollutant is listed in the following sections of this fact sheet below, the permit writer determined the pollutant is a pollutant of concern and there may be a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an instream violation of the Georgia water quality standards. If a pollutant is not listed below, EPD determined the pollutant is not a pollutant of concern or has determined, based on the data provided in the application, there is no reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an instream violation of the Georgia water quality standards. An example may be if the applicant reported "not detect" or "below detection limit".

Upon identification of a pollutant of concern by the permit writer, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. §122.44(d)(1)(ii), the permit writer must then perform a reasonable potential analysis using a procedure which has accounted for any combination of the following criteria: existing controls on point and nonpoint sources of pollution, the variability of the pollutant

or pollutant parameter in the effluent, the sensitivity of the species to toxicity testing (when evaluating whole effluent toxicity), and where appropriate, the dilution of the effluent in the receiving water to determine if the pollutant and its discharge has the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an in-stream excursion above the allowable ambient concentration of a state narrative or numeric criteria within the state's water quality standard for an individual pollutant.

In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §122.44(d)(1)(iii), if the permit writer has determined, using a reasonable potential procedure the pollutant of concern in the discharge causes, has the reasonable potential to cause, or contributes to an in-stream excursion above the allowable ambient concentration of a state numeric or narrative criteria within a state water quality standard for an individual pollutant, the permit must contain effluent limits for that pollutant. If the permit writer has determined there is insufficient data, the permit writer might also consider monitoring requirements to collect the additional data related to the presence or absence of a specific pollutant to provide information for further analyses for the development of appropriate numeric or narrative standard .

The conventional, nonconventional, and toxic pollutants listed in the following sections have been identified by the permit writer as pollutants of concern and the permit writer has determined through current practices and procedures one of the following: no additional monitoring or numeric and/or narrative effluent limits are needed; additional monitoring is required; or numeric and/or narrative effluent limits are necessary to protect the receiving water body and its downstream users and those limits have been included in the permit.

The monitoring and sampling locations are prescribed in the permit and determined by the permit writer after considering, at a minimum, the following: type of discharge, specific pollutant, discharge frequency, location of the discharge, receiving waterbody, downstream users, etc.

The sample type, grab vs. composite, is prescribed in the permit and determined by the permit writer after considering, at a minimum, the analytical method required in 40 C.F.R. §136, the type of pollutant, retention time, etc. Grab samples are required for the analysis of pH, temperature, cyanide, total phenols, residual chlorine, oil and grease, fecal coliform (including E. coli), or volatile organics

4.3 Whole Effluent Toxicity

The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established by section 307(a) of the Federal Act and with chapter 391-3-6-.03(5)(e) of the State Rules and may not discharge toxic pollutants in concentrations or combinations that are harmful to humans, animals, or aquatic life.

If toxicity is suspected in the effluent, EPD may require the permittee to perform acute or chronic whole effluent toxicity testing.

4.4 Conventional Pollutants

Pollutants of Concern	Outfall ID	Basis
pH	001, 002, 003, 004	WQBEL The instream waste concentration (IWC) for outfall 002 is 99.9% and for outfalls 001, 003, and 004 the IWC is 99.8%. When the instream waste concentration is greater than 50%, there is a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to violation of the instream Georgia Water Quality Standard; therefore a limit of 6.0 s.u. to 8.5 s.u has been added.
		TBEL There is no applicable federal technology based effluent limit.
Total Suspended Solids	001, 002, 003, 004	WQBEL Georgia has a narrative Water Quality Standard for total suspended solids. A narrative permit condition stating, "there shall be no floating solids, oil, scum or visible foam other than in trace amounts" has been added.
		TBEL There is no applicable federal technology based effluent limit.
Oil & Grease	001, 002, 003, 004	WQBEL Georgia has a narrative Water Quality Standard for oil and grease. A narrative permit condition stating, "there shall be no floating solids, oil, scum or visible foam other than in trace amounts" has been added.
		TBEL There is no applicable federal technology based effluent limit.

4.5 Nonconventional Pollutants

Pollutants of Concern	Outfall ID	Basis
Ammonia, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, Organic Nitrogen, Nitrate/Nitrite	001, 002, 003, 004	WQBEL Per "*Georgia's Plan for the Adoption of Water Quality Standards for Nutrients*" (2013) as amended, EPD is working to develop water quality models throughout the State of Georgia. EPD is requiring all point source discharges with the presence of ammonia to monitor for total Kjeldahl nitrogen, organic nitrogen, and nitrate/nitrite and to develop these models.
		TBEL There is no applicable federal technology based effluent limit.
Total Phosphorus	001, 002, 003, 004	WQBEL Per the *Strategy for Addressing Phosphorus in NPDES Permitting* (2011) all routine permit reissuances must include phosphorus monitoring.
		TBEL There is no applicable federal technology based effluent limit.
Orthophosphate, as P	001, 002, 003, 004	WQBEL Per the *Strategy for Addressing Phosphorus in NPDES Permitting* (2011) all routine permit reissuances that have discharges upstream from reservoirs, lakes, impoundments, and/or estuaries must include orthophosphate monitoring. The facility and/or outfall discharges upstream of Lake Weiss, hence monitoring requirements have been added.
		TBEL There is no applicable federal technology based effluent limit.

4.6 Toxics & Manmade Organic Compounds (126 priority pollutants and metals)

Pollutants of Concern	Outfall ID	Basis
Total Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)	001, 002, 003, 004	WQBEL In accordance with the EPD reasonable potential procedures, total PCBs are not considered to be a pollutant of concern. The permittee will be required to notify EPD if they detect total PCBs above the technology-based effluent limit included in the permit. EPD may then reopen the permit to conduct RPA to determine the need for more stringent effluent limitations. TBEL Effluent limitations of 0.0005 mg/L daily average and 0.0005 mg/L daily maximum have been included in the permit. The limitations are equivalent to the Total PCBs analytical detection limit and are based on the facility's demonstrated performance of the treatment system.

4.7 Calculations for Water Quality Based Effluent Limits

4.7.1 Instream Waste Concentration (IWC)

Outfall 002

$$IWC = \frac{\text{Effluent Flow (gal/day)}}{\text{Effluent Flow (gal/day)} + 7Q10\ \text{(gal/day)}}$$

$$IWC = \frac{500{,}000\ \text{(gal/day)}}{(500{,}000\ \text{(gal/day)} + 419\ \text{(gal/day)})}$$

IWC = 99.9%

Outfalls 001, 003, and 004

$$IWC = \frac{\text{Effluent Flow (gal/day)}}{\text{Effluent Flow (gal/day)} + 7Q10\ \text{(gal/day)}}$$

$$IWC = \frac{814{,}000\ \text{(gal/day)}}{(814{,}000\ \text{(gal/day)} + 1{,}486\ \text{(gal/day)})}$$

IWC = 99.8%

4.8 Technology Based Effluent Limitation Calculations

There are several ways to calculate TBELs when developing case-by-case limitations. EPD can use an approach consistent with the statistical approach EPA has used to develop effluent guidelines or they can utilize several other mathematically and statistically accepted approaches depending on characteristics of the data. In general, EPD utilizes EPA's "NPDES Permit Writer Manual," September 2010, Section 5.2.3, "Case-by-Case TBELs for Industrial Dischargers" and EPA's "Technical Support Document for Water Quality Based Toxic Control," March 1991, Section 5.2, "Basis Principles of Effluent Variability," as guidance to develop limits.

If applicable, when there is no federal technology based effluent limit EPD evaluates the effluent data, operating records and discharge monitoring reports to calculate the long term average for the parameter. The long term average is then used to derive the effluent limits.

EPD recognizes there are several ways to calculate technology based limits and, when applicable, may deviate from the general practice.

4.9 Comparison & Summary of Water Quality vs. Technology Based Effluent Limits

After preparing and evaluating applicable technology-based effluent limitations and water quality-based effluent limitations, the most stringent limits are applied in the permit. Pollutants of concern with an effluent limit of monitor and report are not included in the below table.

Outfalls 001, 002, 003, and 004:

Parameter	WQBELs	TBELs	Explanation
Total Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) (mg/L)	N/A	0.0005/0.0005	TBEL – WQS
pH (s.u.)	6.0 – 8.5	None	WQBEL – WQS

5.0 OTHER PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Special Conditions

5.1.1 The permittee shall monitor and report analytical results for total PCBs in accordance with Parts I.A and I.D of this permit. If the sampling analysis results for Total PCBs are detected above the permit effluent limit anytime during the duration of this permit, the permittee shall notify EPD in writing within 15 days of receiving analysis results. EPD may conduct another reasonable potential analysis to determine whether a more stringent effluent limitation may be necessary.

5.1.2 In lieu of the sludge disposal requirements specified in Part II.A.6 of this permit, the permittee is authorized to dispose the sludge in an approved chemical waste landfill which is permitted to accept Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) waste.

5.2 Compliance Schedules

The permittee shall attain compliance with all limits on the effective date of the permit.

5.3 Anti-Backsliding

The limits in this permit are in compliance with the 40 C.F.R. 122.44(l), which requires a reissued permit to be as stringent as the previous permit.

6.0 REPORTING

The facility has been assigned to the following EPD office for reporting, compliance and enforcement.

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Mountain District Office – Cartersville
P.O. Box 3250
16 Center Road (30121)
Cartersville, Georgia 30120

6.1 E-Reporting

The permittee is required to electronically submit documents in accordance with 40 CFR Part 127.

7.0 REQUESTED VARIANCES OR ALTERNATIVES TO REQUIRED STANDARDS

Not applicable

8.0 PERMIT EXPIRATION

The permit will expire five years from the effective date.

9.0 PROCEDURES FOR THE FORMULATION OF FINAL DETERMINATIONS

9.1 Comment Period

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) proposes to issue a permit to this applicant subject to the effluent limitations and special conditions outlined above. These determinations are tentative.

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Wastewater Regulatory Program
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Suite 1152 East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The permit application, draft permit, and other information are available for review at 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1152 East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and on EPD's website accessible through the publicly available Georgia EPD Online System (GEOS) at: https://geos.epd.georgia.gov/GA/GEOS/Public/GovEnt/Shared/Pages/Main/Login.aspx. For additional information, you can contact 404-463-1511.

9.2 Public Comments

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations are invited to submit same in writing to the EPD address above, or via e-mail at *EPDcomments@dnr.ga.gov* within 30 days of the initiation of the public comment period. All comments received prior to that date will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. The permit number should be placed on the top of the first page of comments to ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate staff.

9.3 Public Hearing

Any applicant, affected state or interstate agency, the Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or any other interested agency, person or group of persons may request a public hearing with respect to an NPDES permit application if such request is filed within thirty (30) days following the date of the public notice for such application. Such request must indicate the interest of the party filing the request, the reasons why a hearing is requested, and those specific portions of the application or other NPDES form or information to be considered at the public hearing.

The Director shall hold a hearing if he determines that there is sufficient public interest in holding such a hearing. If a public hearing is held, notice of same shall be provided at least thirty (30) days in advance of the hearing date.

In the event that a public hearing is held, both oral and written comments will be accepted; however, for the accuracy of the record, written comments are encouraged. The Director or a designee reserves the right to fix reasonable limits on the time allowed for oral statements and such other procedural requirements, as deemed appropriate.

Following a public hearing, the Director, unless it is decided to deny the permit, may make such modifications in the terms and conditions of the proposed permit as may be appropriate and shall issue the permit.

If no public hearing is held, and, after review of the written comments received, the Director determines that a permit should be issued and that the determinations as set forth in the proposed permit are substantially unchanged, the permit will be issued and will become final in the absence of a request for a contested hearing. Notice of issuance or denial will be made available to all interested persons and those persons that submitted written comments to the Director on the proposed permit.

If no public hearing is held, but the Director determines, after a review of the written comments received, that a permit should be issued but that substantial changes in the proposed permit are warranted, public notice of the revised determinations will be given and written comments accepted in the same manner as the initial notice of application was given and written comments accepted pursuant to EPD Rules, Water Quality Control, subparagraph 391-3-6-.06(7)(b). The Director shall provide an opportunity for public hearing on the revised determinations. Such opportunity for public hearing and the issuance or denial of a permit thereafter shall be in accordance with the procedures as are set forth above.

9.4 Final Determination

At the time that any final permit decision is made, the Director shall issue a response to comments. The issued permit and responses to comments can be found at the following address:

http://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch-permit-and-public-comments-clearinghouse-0

9.5 Contested Hearings

Any person who is aggrieved or adversely affected by the issuance or denial of a permit by the Director of EPD may petition the Director for a hearing if such petition is filed in the office of the Director within thirty (30) days from the date of notice of such permit issuance or denial. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the EPD Rules, Water Quality Control, subparagraph 391-3-6-.01.

Petitions for a contested hearing must include the following:

1. The name and address of the petitioner;
2. The grounds under which petitioner alleges to be aggrieved or adversely affected by the issuance or denial of a permit;
3. The reason or reasons why petitioner takes issue with the action of the Director;
4. All other matters asserted by petitioner which are relevant to the action in question.

APPENDIX A – Wasteload Allocation

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Richard E. Dunn, Director

Watershed Protection Branch
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1152, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-463-1511

Memorandum

Date: February 24, 2021

To: Josh Welte

Through: Audra Dickson

From: Ian McDowell

Subject: Waste Load Allocation (WLA) Request
General Electric Company - Rome
NPDES Permit No. GA0024155
Floyd County, Coosa River Basin

WLA request for the reissuance of the above referenced facility, which will expire on June 30, 2021. The analytical analyses accompanying the application for renewal of the NPDES permit indicated the presence of oxygen demanding constituents, nutrients or toxics above detectable limits and the Wastewater Regulatory Program is requesting water quality limits for the permit.

Wastewater Regulatory Program: Permit Information (for each outfall)
(Duplicate this section for each outfall you need a WLA for)

Outfall No.: 001	Lat/Long: 34.279783, -85.225558
Name of Receiving Waters: Unnamed Tributary to Horseleg Creek	River Basin: Coosa
Average Flow (MGD): N/A – Emergency Overflow	Maximum (Design) Flow (MGD): N/A – Emergency Overflow
Summer Temperature (max): N/A	Winter Temperature (max): N/A

Description of Industrial Processes:

Emergency overflows of stormwater. Under normal operations, stormwater collected at Outfall 001 is routed to Outfall 003 for treatment and discharge.

Type of Wastewater Discharge:

☐ Process Wastewater ☐ Cooling Water ☒ Stormwater

☐ Domestic Wastewater ☐ Other (Describe)

Based on a review of the permit application, the following values were reported. WRP is requesting a waste load allocation for water quality limits to meet in-stream Water Quality Standards for the following constituents:

Provide daily average and daily maximum values reported on the application below, with units.

- ☐ BOD_5 Non-Detect
- ☐ DO Not Provided
- ☐ NH_3 Not Provided
- ☐ Total Phosphorus Non-Detect
- ☐ TRC Not Provided
- ☐ Temperature Not Provided

Watershed Planning and Monitoring Program

Please provide the following items about the receiving stream and indicate "NA" if an item does not apply.

- ☒ 7Q10 _____
- ☒ 30Q3 _____
- ☒ 1Q10 _____
- ☒ Mean Annual Stream Flow _____
- ☒ Receiving Stream Hardness _____
- ☒ Upstream TSS _____
- ☒ Chronic instream NH_3 toxicity _____

Outfall No.: 002	Lat/Long: 34.284739, -85.220934
Name of Receiving Waters: Unnamed Tributary to Little Dry Creek	River Basin: Coosa
Average Flow (MGD): 0.215	Maximum (Design) Flow (MGD): 0.500
Summer Temperature (max): N/A	Winter Temperature (max): N/A

Description of Industrial Processes:

Stormwater from Outfall 002 is discharged without treatment.

Type of Wastewater Discharge:

- ☐ Process Wastewater
- ☐ Cooling Water
- ☒ Stormwater
- ☐ Domestic Wastewater
- ☐ Other (Describe)

Based on a review of the permit application, the following values were reported. WRP is requesting a waste load allocation for water quality limits to meet in-stream Water Quality Standards for the following constituents:

Provide daily average and daily maximum values reported on the application below, with units.

- ☐ BOD_5 Non-Detect
- ☐ DO Not Provided
- ☐ NH_3 Not Provided
- ☐ Total Phosphorus Non-Detect
- ☐ TRC Not Provided
- ☐ Temperature Not Provided

Watershed Planning and Monitoring Program

Please provide the following items about the receiving stream and indicate "NA" if an item does not apply.

- ☒ 7Q10 _____
- ☒ 30Q3 _____
- ☒ 1Q10 _____
- ☒ Mean Annual Stream Flow _____
- ☒ Receiving Stream Hardness _____
- ☒ Upstream TSS _____
- ☒ Chronic instream NH_3 toxicity _____

Outfall No.: 003	Lat/Long: 34.281561, -85.225373
Name of Receiving Waters: Unnamed Tributary to Horseleg Creek	River Basin: Coosa
Average Flow (MGD): 0.634	Maximum (Design) Flow (MGD): 0.814
Summer Temperature (max): N/A	Winter Temperature (max): N/A

Description of Industrial Processes:

Stormwater from Outfalls 001, 003, and 004 is captured for treatment prior to discharge from Outfall 003. Stormwater is treated by grit removal, coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, multimedia filtration, and carbon adsorption.

Type of Wastewater Discharge:

- ☐ Process Wastewater
- ☐ Cooling Water
- ☒ Stormwater
- ☐ Domestic Wastewater
- ☐ Other (Describe)

Based on a review of the permit application, the following values were reported. WRP is requesting a waste load allocation for water quality limits to meet in-stream Water Quality Standards for the following constituents:

Provide daily average and daily maximum values reported on the application below, with units.

- ☐ BOD_5 Non-Detect
- ☐ DO Not Provided
- ☐ NH_3 Not Provided
- ☐ Total Phosphorus Non-Detect
- ☐ TRC Not Provided
- ☐ Temperature Not Provided

Watershed Planning and Monitoring Program

Please provide the following items about the receiving stream and indicate "NA" if an item does not apply.

- ☒ 7Q10 _____
- ☒ 30Q3 _____
- ☒ 1Q10 _____
- ☒ Mean Annual Stream Flow _____
- ☒ Receiving Stream Hardness _____
- ☒ Upstream TSS _____
- ☒ Chronic instream NH_3 toxicity _____

Outfall No.: 004	Lat/Long: 34.281257, -85.218174
Name of Receiving Waters: Unnamed Tributary to Little Dry Creek	River Basin: Coosa
Average Flow (MGD): N/A – Emergency Overflow	Maximum (Design) Flow (MGD): N/A – Emergency Overflow
Summer Temperature (max): N/A	Winter Temperature (max): N/A

Description of Industrial Processes:

Emergency overflows of stormwater. Under normal operations, stormwater collected at Outfall 004 is routed to Outfall 003 for treatment and discharge.

Type of Wastewater Discharge:

- ☐ Process Wastewater
- ☐ Cooling Water
- ☒ Stormwater
- ☐ Domestic Wastewater
- ☐ Other (Describe)

Based on a review of the permit application, the following values were reported. WRP is requesting a waste load allocation for water quality limits to meet in-stream Water Quality Standards for the following constituents:

Provide daily average and daily maximum values reported on the application below, with units.

- ☐ BOD_5 Non-Detect
- ☐ DO Not Provided
- ☐ NH_3 Not Provided
- ☐ Total Phosphorus Non-Detect
- ☐ TRC Not Provided
- ☐ Temperature Not Provided

Watershed Planning and Monitoring Program

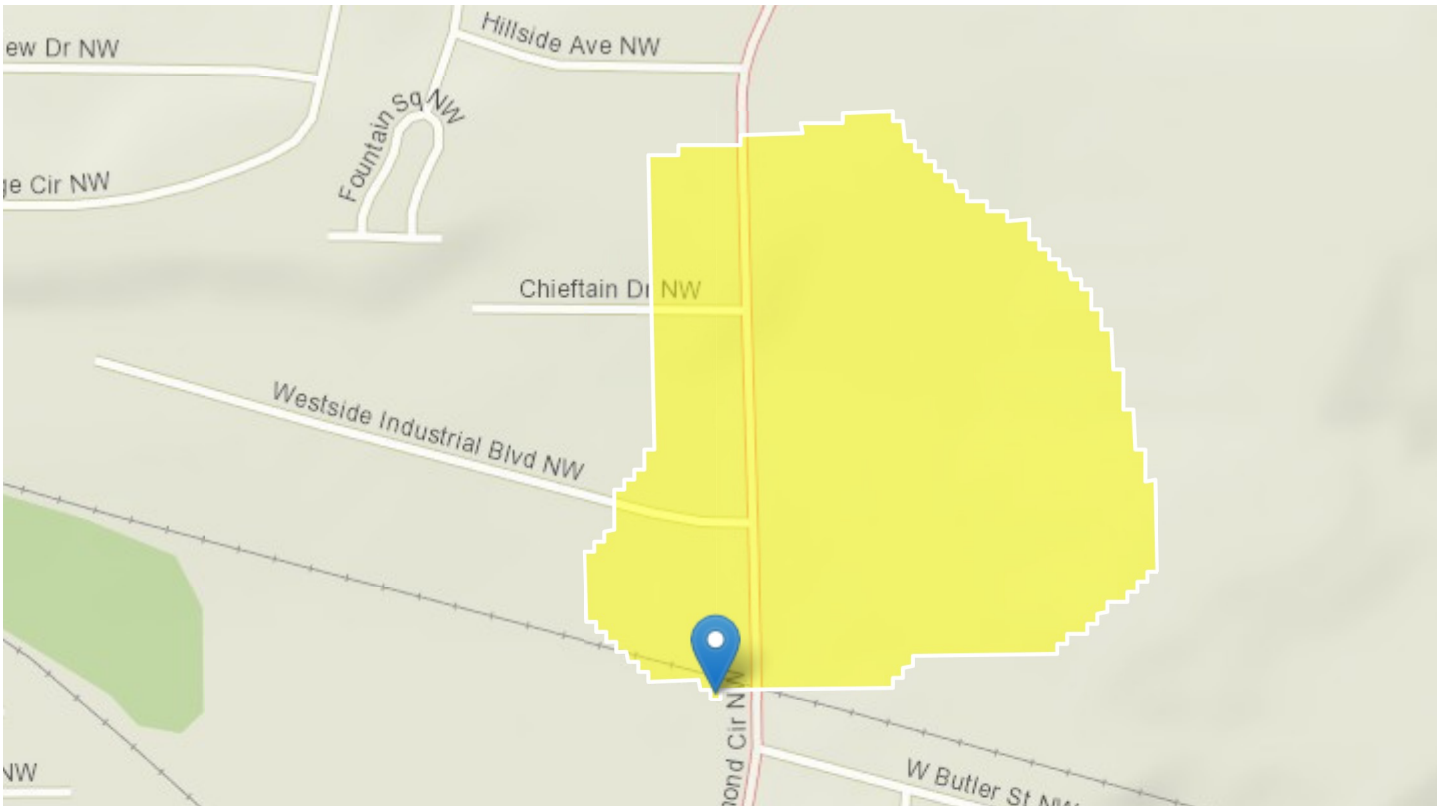
Please provide the following items about the receiving stream and indicate "NA" if an item does not apply.

- ☒ 7Q10 _____
- ☒ 30Q3 _____
- ☒ 1Q10 _____
- ☒ Mean Annual Stream Flow _____
- ☒ Receiving Stream Hardness _____
- ☒ Upstream TSS _____
- ☒ Chronic instream NH_3 toxicity _____

See attached for estimated streamflows
See attached for listing information of downstream waters
Discharges are in Ecoregion 67g - Southern Shale Valleys

Unnamed Trib to Horseleg Creek

Region ID: GA
Workspace ID: GA20210305180813162000
Clicked Point (Latitude, Longitude): 34.27897, -85.22644
Time: 2021-03-05 13:08:30 -0500



Basin Characteristics

Parameter Code	Parameter Description	Value	Unit
DRNAREA	Area that drains to a point on a stream	0.0917	square miles
PRECPRIS00	Basin average mean annual precipitation for 1971 to 2000 from PRISM	54.6	inches
RRMEAN	Relief ratio defined as (ELEV-MINBELEV)/(ELEVMAX-MINBELEV)	0.538	dimensionless

Low-Flow Statistics Parameters[N Georgia low flow 2017 5001]

Parameter Code	Parameter Name	Value	Units	Min Limit	Max Limit
DRNAREA	Drainage Area	0.0917	square miles	1.67	576
PRECPRIS00	Mean Annual Precip PRISM 1971 2000	54.6	inches	47.6	81.6
RRMEAN	Relief Ratio Mean	0.538	dimensionless	0.146	0.607

Low-Flow Statistics Disclaimers[N Georgia low flow 2017 5001]

One or more of the parameters is outside the suggested range. Estimates were extrapolated with unknown errors

Low-Flow Statistics Flow Report[N Georgia low flow 2017 5001]

Statistic	Value	Unit
1 Day 10 Year Low Flow	0.00171	ft^3/s
7 Day 10 Year Low Flow	0.00232	ft^3/s

Low-Flow Statistics Citations

Gotvald, A.J.,2017, Methods for estimating selected low-flow frequency statistics and mean annual flow for ungaged locations on streams in North Georgia: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2017–5001, 25 p. (https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20175001)

Annual Flow Statistics Parameters[N Georgia mean flow 2017 5001]

Parameter Code	Parameter Name	Value	Units	Min Limit	Max Limit
DRNAREA	Drainage Area	0.0917	square miles	1.67	576
PRECPRIS00	Mean Annual Precip PRISM 1971 2000	54.6	inches	47.6	81.6

Annual Flow Statistics Disclaimers[N Georgia mean flow 2017 5001]

One or more of the parameters is outside the suggested range. Estimates were extrapolated with unknown errors

Annual Flow Statistics Flow Report[N Georgia mean flow 2017 5001]

Statistic	Value	Unit
Mean Annual Flow	0.124	ft^3/s

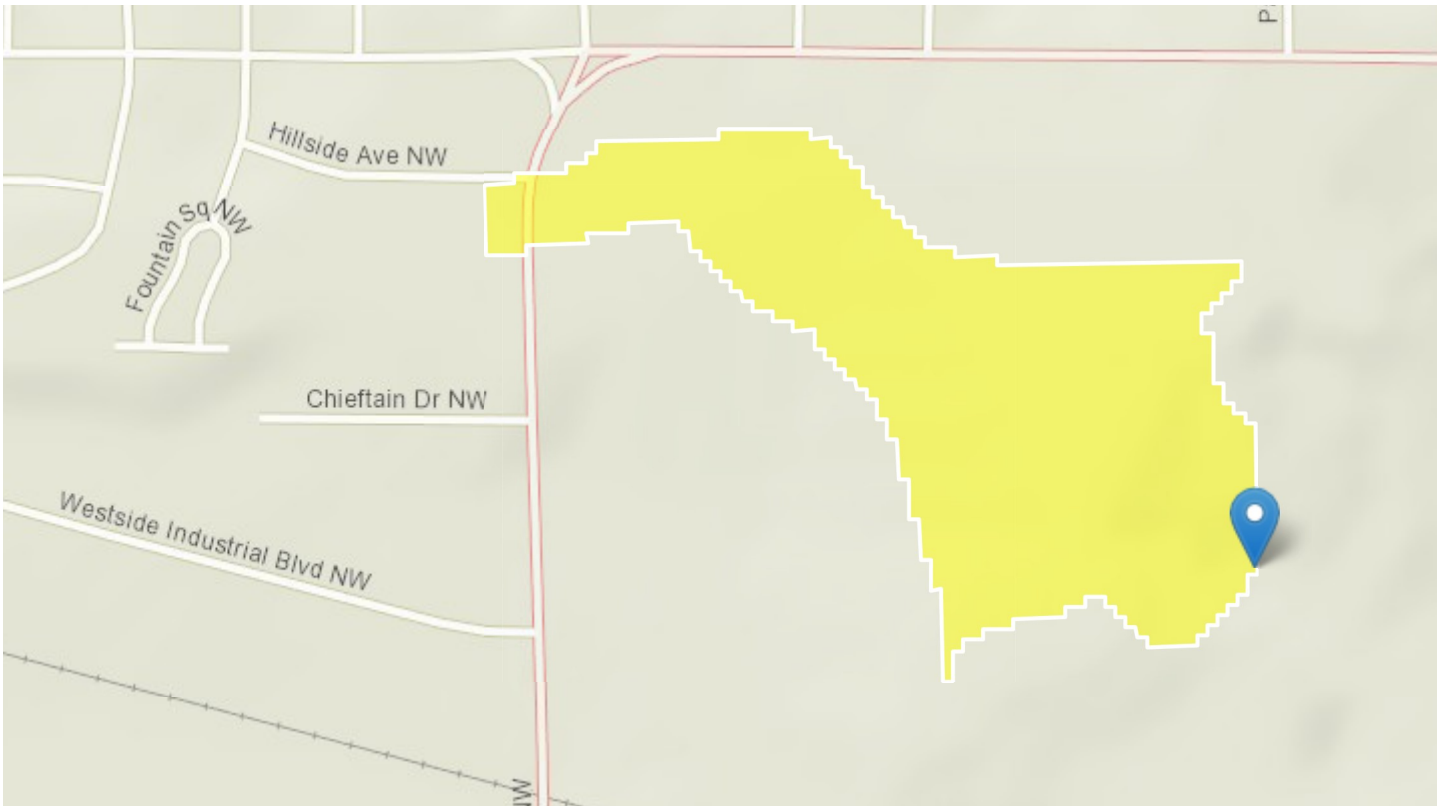
Annual Flow Statistics Citations

Gotvald, A.J.,2017, Methods for estimating selected low-flow frequency statistics and mean annual flow for ungaged locations on streams in North Georgia: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2017–5001, 25 p. (https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20175001)

Application Version: 4.4.0

Unnamed Trib to Little Dry Creek

Region ID: GA
Workspace ID: GA20210305181240124000
Clicked Point (Latitude, Longitude): 34.28105, -85.21844
Time: 2021-03-05 13:12:57 -0500



Basin Characteristics

Parameter Code	Parameter Description	Value	Unit
DRNAREA	Area that drains to a point on a stream	0.0663	square miles
PRECPRIS00	Basin average mean annual precipitation for 1971 to 2000 from PRISM	54.6	inches
RRMEAN	Relief ratio defined as (ELEV-MINBELEV)/(ELEVMAX-MINBELEV)	0.708	dimensionless

Low-Flow Statistics Parameters[N Georgia low flow 2017 5001]

Parameter Code	Parameter Name	Value	Units	Min Limit	Max Limit
DRNAREA	Drainage Area	0.0663	square miles	1.67	576
PRECPRIS00	Mean Annual Precip PRISM 1971 2000	54.6	inches	47.6	81.6
RRMEAN	Relief Ratio Mean	0.708	dimensionless	0.146	0.607

Low-Flow Statistics Disclaimers[N Georgia low flow 2017 5001]

One or more of the parameters is outside the suggested range. Estimates were extrapolated with unknown errors

Low-Flow Statistics Flow Report[N Georgia low flow 2017 5001]

Statistic	Value	Unit
1 Day 10 Year Low Flow	0.000447	ft^3/s
7 Day 10 Year Low Flow	0.000649	ft^3/s

Low-Flow Statistics Citations

Gotvald, A.J.,2017, Methods for estimating selected low-flow frequency statistics and mean annual flow for ungaged locations on streams in North Georgia: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2017–5001, 25 p. (https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20175001)

Annual Flow Statistics Parameters[N Georgia mean flow 2017 5001]

Parameter Code	Parameter Name	Value	Units	Min Limit	Max Limit
DRNAREA	Drainage Area	0.0663	square miles	1.67	576
PRECPRIS00	Mean Annual Precip PRISM 1971 2000	54.6	inches	47.6	81.6

Annual Flow Statistics Disclaimers[N Georgia mean flow 2017 5001]

One or more of the parameters is outside the suggested range. Estimates were extrapolated with unknown errors

Annual Flow Statistics Flow Report[N Georgia mean flow 2017 5001]

Statistic	Value	Unit
Mean Annual Flow	0.0897	ft^3/s

Annual Flow Statistics Citations

Gotvald, A.J.,2017, Methods for estimating selected low-flow frequency statistics and mean annual flow for ungaged locations on streams in North Georgia: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2017–5001, 25 p. (https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20175001)

Application Version: 4.4.0

2020 Integrated 305(b)/303(d) List - Streams

Reach Name/ID	Reach Location/County	River Basin/ Use	Assessment/ Data Provider	Cause/ Source	Size/Unit	Category/ Priority	Notes
Holly Creek	Headwaters to Amicalola Creek	Coosa	Not Supporting	FC, Bio F	4	4a	TMDLs completed FC (2009) & Bio F (2009).
GAR031501040203	Dawson	Fishing	4,47	NP	Miles		
Holly Creek	Headwaters to Dill Creek (previously Headwaters to Bear Branch)	Coosa	Assessment Pending		7	3	This site has a narrative rank of fair for macroinvertebrates. When EPD completes the reevaluation of the metrics used to assess macroinvertebrate data it will be determined if the macroinvertebrate criteria are being met. pH is being placed in Category 3 based on 2013 data from RV_14_4447. The sonde was not working correctly for several months and more data is needed before making an assessment.
GAR031501010405	Murray	Fishing	1,4,59		Miles		
Holly Creek	Downstream Chatsworth	Coosa	Not Supporting	FC	4	4a	TMDL completed FC 2009.
GAR031501010402	Murray	Fishing, Drinking Water	10	UR	Miles		
Holly Creek	Rock Creek to Conasauga River	Coosa	Not Supporting	FC	8	4a	TMDL completed FC 2004. Fish Tissue (Mercury) is in Category 3 because the concentration = 0.3 mg/kg
GAR031501010401	Murray	Fishing	10	NP	Miles		
Horseleg Creek	Headwaters to Coosa River - Rome	Coosa	Not Supporting	Fish Tissue (PCBs), FC	4	4a	Cause for Fish Tissue (PCBs) is I2. Cause for FC is NP. TMDLs completed Fish Tissue (PCBs) (aka Commercial Fishing Ban) 2005 (revised 2009 & 2014) & FC (2009). There is a commercial fishing ban in place due to historical PCB contamination in the area (Rules and Regulations for Wildlife Resources Division 391-4-3-.04).
GAR031501050211	Floyd	Fishing	3,10	I2, NP	Miles		
Hurricane Creek	Mill Creek to Etowah River	Coosa	Not Supporting	Bio F	3	4a	TMDL completed Bio F 2009.
GAR031501040109	Lumpkin	Fishing	4	NP	Miles		
Illinois Creek	Lake Allatoona Tributary	Coosa	Supporting		2	1	
GAR031501041009	Bartow, Cherokee	Fishing	24		Miles		
Jacks Creek	Headwaters to Pine Log Creek	Coosa	Not Supporting	Bio F	6	4a	TMDL completed Bio F 2009.
GAR031501020704	Gordon	Fishing	4	NP	Miles		

2020 Integrated 305(b)/303(d) List - Streams

Reach Name/ID	Reach Location/County	River Basin/ Use	Assessment/ Data Provider	Cause/ Source	Size/Unit	Category/ Priority	Notes
Little Dry Creek	Tributary to the Oostanaula River - Rome	Coosa	Not Supporting	Fish Tissue (PCBs)	6	4a	TMDL completed Fish Tissue (PCBs) (aka Commercial Fishing Ban) 2005 (revised 2009 & 2014). There is a commercial fishing ban in place due to historical PCB contamination in the area (Rules and Regulations for Wildlife Resources Division 391-4-3-.04).
GAR031501030603	Floyd	Fishing	3	I2	Miles		
Little Mountaintown Creek	Gibson Lake to Mountaintown Creek	Coosa	Supporting		5	1	
GAR031501020305	Gilmer	Fishing	1,4		Miles		
Little Noonday Creek	Tributary to Noonday Creek	Coosa	Supporting		3	1	TMDL completed FC 2004.
GAR031501040801	Cobb	Fishing	14		Miles		
Little River	Headwaters to Chicken Creek	Coosa	Supporting		10	1	
GAR031501040817	Fulton, Cherokee	Fishing	1		Miles		
Little River	Hwy 140 to Lake Allatoona	Coosa	Not Supporting	FC	12	4a	TMDL completed FC 2009.
GAR031501040802	Fulton, Cherokee	Fishing	1,10,17,41	NP	Miles		
Little Scarecorn Creek	Headwaters to Talking Rock Creek	Coosa	Not Supporting	Bio M, Bio F	6	4a	TMDLs completed Bio F & Bio M 2016.
GAR031501020505	Pickens	Fishing	1,4,59	NP	Miles		
Long Branch	Headwaters to Talking Rock Creek	Coosa	Supporting		5	1	
GAR031501020506	Pickens, Gordon	Fishing	4		Miles		
Long Swamp Creek	Lake Tamarack to Hinton Creek	Coosa	Not Supporting	Bio F	3	4a	TMDL completed Bio F 2016. The water is not supporting its Fishing Use. Data are not available to assess the Drinking Water Use.
GAR031501040409	Pickens	Drinking Water, Fishing	4	NP, UR	Miles		
Long Swamp Creek	Hwy 53 to Etowah River, near Ball Ground	Coosa	Supporting		8	1	TMDL completed FC 2004.
GAR031501040403	Pickens, Cherokee	Fishing	1,4,10,41		Miles		